What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, and SEQ ID NO:26.

2. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, and SEQ ID NO:28.

3. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.

4. The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein the DNA is cDNA.

5. A nucleic acid probe of at least about 15 nucleotides in length which specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding a mammalian LOX-1 receptor or with a nucleic acid having the complementary sequence thereof.

6. The nucleic acid probe of claim 5, wherein the mammalian LOX-1 receptor has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, and SEQ ID NO:26.

7. The nucleic acid probe of claim 5, wherein the probe specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:39.

8. The nucleic acid probe of claim 5, wherein the probe

is labeled with a detectable marker.

9. An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, and SEQ ID NO:26.

10. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.

11. The vector of claim 10, wherein the vector is adapted for expression of the nucleic acid in a cell and comprises regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic acid in the cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid so as to permit expression thereof.

12. A cell comprising the vector of claim 10.

13. The cell of claim 12, wherein the cell is a bacterial, amphibian, yeast, fungal, insect, plant, or mammalian cell.

14. The cell of claim 12, wherein but for the vector present therein, the cell would not express a mammalian LOX-1 receptor.

15. A method of determining whether an agent inhibits the activity of a membrane-bound mammalian LOX-1 receptor, which comprises (a) contacting the agent with the receptor under conditions which would permit the inhibition of such activity by an activity-inhibiting agent, and (b) detecting whether the agent has inhibited the activity of the LOX-1 receptor.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the LOX-1 receptor is a mouse receptor.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the LOX-1 receptor is a human receptor.

18. An agent determined by the method of claim 15 to inhibit the activity of a membrane-bound mammalian LOX-1 receptor.

19. A composition which comprises the agent of claim 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A method of preparing a composition which comprises identifying an agent by the method of claim 15, recovering the agent free of LOX-1 receptor, and admixing the agent with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. A method of inhibiting the activity of a mammalian LOX-1 receptor, which comprises contacting the receptor with an agent that inhibits the activity of a mammalian LOX-1 receptor.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the LOX-1 receptor is membrane-bound.

23. A method of reducing the amount of a mammalian LOX-1 receptor on the surface of a cell, which comprises delivering to the cell an agent that reduces the expression of mammalian LOX-1 receptor therein.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the agent is a catalytic nucleic acid or an antisense nucleic acid.

25. A method of inhibiting the ability of an agent to bind to and activate a membrane-bound mammalian LOX-1 receptor, which comprises contacting the agent with a soluble mammalian LOX-1 receptor.

26. A method of treating a mammalian subject afflicted with a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that inhibits the activity of LOX-1 receptors in the subject.

27. A method of inhibiting the onset in a mammalian subject of a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a prophylactically effective amount of an agent that inhibits the activity of LOX-1 receptors in the subject.

28. A method of treating a mammalian subject afflicted with a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that inhibits the expression of LOX-1 receptors in the subject's cells.

29. A method of inhibiting the onset in a mammalian subject of a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a prophylactically effective amount of an agent that inhibits the expression of LOX-1 receptors in the subject's cells.

30. A method of treating a mammalian subject afflicted with a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble LOX-1

receptor.

31. A method of inhibiting the onset in a mammalian subject of a disorder selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart failure and stroke, comprising administering to the subject a prophylactically effective amount of a soluble LOX-1 receptor.

32. The method of claim 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31, wherein the disorder is atherosclerosis.

33. The method of claim 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31, wherein the disorder is heart failure.

34. The method of claim 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31, wherein the disorder is stroke.

35. The method of claim 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31, wherein the subject is a mouse.

36. The method of claim 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31, wherein the subject is a human.

Add B2